

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, GW, GE, US

SUBJECT: US-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS GUIDANCE

1.) THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS INTEREST HERE THUS FAR IN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR. WE DO NOT INTEND TO ISSUE A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE TALKS BUT WE HAVE FURNISHED THE PRESS SPOKESMAN WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR HIS USE ON AN IF ASKED BASIS.

2.) CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR WERE HELD FEBRUARY 10-20 IN WASHINGTON. THE TALKS WERE IN ACCORDANCE UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE TIME OF THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THAT, ONCE THE AMBASSADORS WERE IN PLACE, NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULAR AGREEMENT. THE TALKS WERE LED ON THE GDR SIDE BY AMBASSADOR AUGUST KLOBES, HEAD OF THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ON THE US SIDE, BY ROBERT DAVIS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. THE TALKS INVOLVED PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION DRAFTS SUBMITTED BY BOTH SIDES. THE GDR DELEGATION DEPARTED WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 21 FOR RETURN TO THE GDR. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE SECOND

ROUND OF TALKS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN BERLIN.

QUESTION

WAS MUCH AGREEMENT REACHED?

ANSWER

A CONSULAR CONVENTION IS OF COURSE A COMPLEX TECHNICAL DOCUMENT. DURING THE TALKS ALL ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY BOTH SIDES IN THEIR PRELIMINARY DRAFTS WERE DISCUSSED AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED ON A LARGE PORTION OF THE CONTENT OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT, SUCH AS THE OPERATION OF CONSULAR POSTS, THE APPOINTMENT AND STATUS OF CONSULAR PERSONNEL, AND THE SCOPE OF IMMUNITIES TO BE ENJOYED BY SUCH PERSONNEL. CONSIDERABLE CONSENSUS ALSO WAS REACHED ON SUCH MATTERS AS THE SCOPE OF CONSULAR FUNCTIONS IN THE PROTECTION OF ESTATES, OF SENDING STATE NATIONALS, ON THE EXECUTION OF NOTARIAL FUNCTIONS AND PROTECTION OF VESSELS AND CREWS, AND ON THE ROLE OF CONSULAR OFFICERS IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF NATIONALS WHO ARE ARRESTED OR DETAINED.

QUESTION

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE ANOTHER ROUND? WERE THERE DIFFERENCES?

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ANSWER

IN A SUBJECT THIS COMPLEX, THERE NATURALLY WERE SOME AREAS REQUIRING FURTHER DISCUSSION. IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR ME TO GET INTO MATTERS WHICH ARE STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION.

QUESTION

WHAT ABOUT THE NATIONALITY QUESTION. DID THE GDR INSIST
ON A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN THE AGREEMENT?

ANSWER

THE QUESTION OF A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY DID COME UP
DURING THE TALKS AND THIS IS ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE NO
AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. THE GDR WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A

GENERAL DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN THE CONVENTION AND
WE ARE OPPOSED. IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR ME TO SAY MORE
THAN THAT AT THIS TIME.

QUESTION

HOW ABOUT THE OTHER AREAS OF DIFFERENCE?

ANSWER

I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THAT. MOST OF THEM ARE
TECHNICALITIES WHICH SHOULD NOT PROVE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE.
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